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Seventy-second session
Item 71 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraphs 15 and 16 of its resolution 71/181, the General Assembly reiterated its requests to the Secretary-General, pursuant to its resolution 68/151, to revitalize and reactivate the operational activities of the group of independent eminent experts and in this regard to ensure the full functionality of the group by filling the existing vacancies, at the latest by the end of March 2017, in accordance with its resolution 56/266.

2. It also reiterated its invitation to the Human Rights Council, pursuant to paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 68/151, to ensure the visibility, effective participation and optimal utilization of the vast knowledge and experience of the group of independent eminent experts, within its subsidiary structures, charged with the mandate of and responsibility for the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and in that regard requested the Council to submit a progress report to the Assembly at its seventy-second session.

3. In this context, the Secretariat hereby informs the General Assembly that the independent eminent experts, Hanna Suchocka and Edna Maria Santos Roland, participated in the fourteenth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, held in Geneva from 5 to 14 October 2016 (A/HRC/35/45). The experts briefed the members of the Working Group on the challenges that they faced, inter alia, the definition of the mandate of the group of independent eminent experts, the appointment of new members and the lack of additional human and financial resources.

4. With regard to filling the existing vacancies, the coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Group (Maldives) forwarded to the Secretariat the nomination of Saied A. Ashowwaf

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(Saudi Arabia), through its Permanent Mission. Similarly, the coordinator of the African Group (Tunisia) forwarded to the Secretariat the nomination of Ibrahim Agboola Gambari (Nigeria), through its Permanent Mission.

5. The General Assembly is invited to take appropriate action.